

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

27 March 2013

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Missouri State University Students Publish Book on Edgar Allan Poe

Featuring the writings of Edgar Allan Poe, the April 2013 “Big Read” is a community-wide literacy outreach sponsored by Springfield-Greene County Library District. This year, Missouri State University students are joining the Library District in its annual “one book, one community” celebration.

Fourteen students in English and twelve in Art and Design have collaborated over the publication of *Edgar Allan Poe: A Guide for Readers Young and Old* (Springfield: Moon City, 2013). This illustrated book features several of Poe’s best-known works and essays on various subjects, including Poe’s life and the mystery of his death, Poe’s place in history and in today’s popular culture, and Poe’s contributions to horror fiction, detective fiction, and science fiction.

The book began as a Service-Learning project under the direction of James S. Baumlin, Professor of English, whose student researchers and authors include Joe Welch, Sarah Rocha, Jory Pennell, Shannen Malone, Lisa Lee, Allison Laverty, Mary Haller, Abigale Fridley, Jessie Curtis, Alec Conner, Jacob Carriger, Erin Boschen, Jade Benhardt, and Kelly Baker. Under the direction of Judith Fowler, Associate Professor of Art and Design, the following students produced the book’s Poe-themed art: Addison Reed, Molly McGee, Alyssa Mangan, Micah Lambeth, Nagisa Kagami, Ben Garcia, Miranda Freeman, Erin Everett, Chad Cornish, Megan Chastain, and Paige Borilage. Student artist Justin Gloe designed the cover.

Partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, *Edgar Allan Poe: A Guide for Readers Young and Old* will be presented as gifts to select area school children and their teachers, in order to expand the Library District’s “Big Read” outreach. Students enrolled in Professor Baumlin’s Spring 2013 Service-Learning literature course will be visiting several middle school classrooms, giving dramatic readings of Poe and leading Poe-themed workshops in creative writing. These students include Danyelle N. Steinkamp, Margaret A. Peters, Kate E. Peters, Serena G. Kelly, Ryan Jordan, Kaylee N. Henderson, Shannon M. Hays, Erin D. Hargis, Allison R. Geren, Jessica L. Geiger, Zachary S. Fletcher, Sara M. Docker, Abigail C. Daniel, Emily Dachroeden, and Logan B. Bell.

A full schedule of “Big Read” events is available at the various Library District branches and on its website, <thelibrary.org/bigread>. Three free, public events will feature Missouri State faculty and students.

On Friday evening, April 12, the Missouri State Opera Workshop will join in the “Tell Tale Chautauqua,” an evening of Poe-inspired readings and songs. Under the direction of Ann Marie Daehn, Assistant Professor of Music, Missouri State Opera Workshop will feature the talents of students Melody Gilbert, Brittany Griffin, Angela Holland, Alyssa Phinney, Traci Prichard, Jared Swope, Martin Wilson, and Loriana Zavala. The event will be held 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Library Center on South Campbell Avenue.

On Tuesday afternoon, April 16, Paw Prints Bookstore will host an author/artist signing party for *Edgar Allan Poe*. The signing will be held 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Plaster Student Union on the Missouri State campus. Paw Prints is the exclusive seller of the book, which can be purchased for \$5.00.

On Wednesday, April 17, Professor Baumlin will join with Emeritus Professor Donald Holiday in a lecture, “Edgar Allan Poe, Then and Now.” Baumlin will be drawing from materials in *Edgar Allan Poe: A Guide for Readers Young and Old*.

The “Big Read” is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. For information on the book and forthcoming events, email James S. Baumlin at <jbaumlin@missouristate.edu>.